

TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

March 1974
Issue #48
R. B. Carter
Editor

MARCH 17th MEETING -- 3rd SUNDAY

The CATC will once again meet at the Elaine Willahan Museum in Los Angeles. The time will be from 2 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

Our speaker for the month will be Paul Thompson. And "Believe it or Not" he will speak on a subject that may surprise many of you -- not Buttons.

OLD BUSINESS

On behalf of all the members and guests present at the January meeting, I would like to thank John Barnes for his very informative talk on "Bottle Caps." Also a thank you for the time and effort in making up a display for everyone to enjoy. We all will have a greater appreciation for "Bottle Caps" in the future.

This first meeting of the year attracted a sizeable crowd. It will be a wonderful thing if this enthusiasm can be generated throughout the year. Present at the January meeting were members Roland Atwood, Andy Crusen, Kirk Smith, John Barnes, F. Gordon and Claire Smith, George Ticknor, Steve Lipshie, James Manning, Ken Smith, Elaine Willahan, Edrick Miller, Bob Ritterband, Paul Thompson, Bob Carter, Frank Schwartz; guests Eleanor Smith, Virginia Barnes, John WySocle, Victor Lopez, Alicia Lopez, Gene Lundy, and Joyce Lundy were in attendance.

A brief business session was held during which time the following dates and locations were set for the remainder of the year.

- | | |
|-----------|---|
| May 19, | Trolley Museum, Perris, California
ALL DAY 11 A.M. -- 2 P.M. Bring Lunch |
| July 21, | F. Gordon and Claire Smith, Oceanside, Ca.
1:30 P.M. -- 3:30 P.M. |
| Sept. 15, | Picnic, Griffith Park, Los Angeles, Ca.
11 A.M. -- 1:30 P.M. |
| Nov. 17, | Robert and Molly Ritterband, Los Angeles, Ca.
2 P.M. -- 4:30 P.M. |

CONGRATULATIONS

One of our members who is always a faithful attendant at all meetings was noticeably absent from the January meeting. Subsequent information revealed the fact that he was in the process of moving to a larger apartment at the time. On behalf of all CATC members, I would like to extend Best Wishes to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Kuback. We hope to see you, Robert, and your bride at the March meeting.

WELCOME

We just received a new member -- Arthur J. Lee. We hope you will be able to attend the March meeting so all present will have the opportunity to welcome you personally.

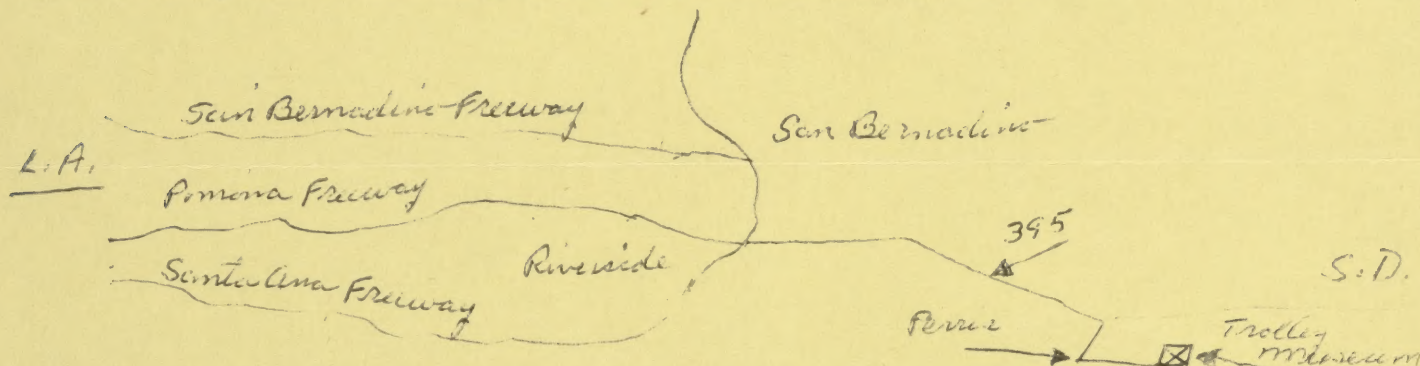
TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

May 1974
Issue #50
R. B. Carter
Editor

MAY 19th MEETING -- 3rd SUNDAY

This will be our first out-of-town meeting. It will be held at the Orange Empire Trolley Museum, Perris, California. An early arrival, with lunch and camera in hand, will allow plenty of time to look at the many trolley cars collected here. There are two trolley rides as well as an interesting book store (at the station) to look through. This outing has something for everyone in the family.



Around 1:30 p.m. we will meet in front of the station for a brief business meeting.

OLD BUSINESS

On behalf of all those present at the March meeting, I would like to thank Paul Thompson for the display and his very informative talk on the different types of "Railroad Keys" that were used in the United States and Canada. We were surprised at the many types of keys and their uses.

Seventeen members and four guests were present. Members included Kirk Smith, E. Miller, R. Ritterband, A. Crusen, R. Atwood, G. Ticknor, P. Thompson, C. Smith, F. G. Smith, R. Kubach, Ken Smith, E. Willahan, S. Alpert, R. Carter, S. Lipshie, J. Barnes, J. Manning; and guests P. Miller, V. Barnes, E. Smith, and J. Stotts.

There was a brief discussion of plans for the 1975 AVA Convention which our club is hosting. A hotel site near the International Airport has been chosen. Bob Ritterband will keep us up to date on the firm decisions at future meetings.

Two of our active members (Both in attendance) celebrated their birthdays this month; Roland Atwood, 78, and F. Gordon Smith, 80. Congratulations to you both.

WELCOME

Our club continues to grow each month. This month we welcome two members -- Jeff Robbins and S. F. Schimmel. We hope you both will be able to join us at our meetings.

TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

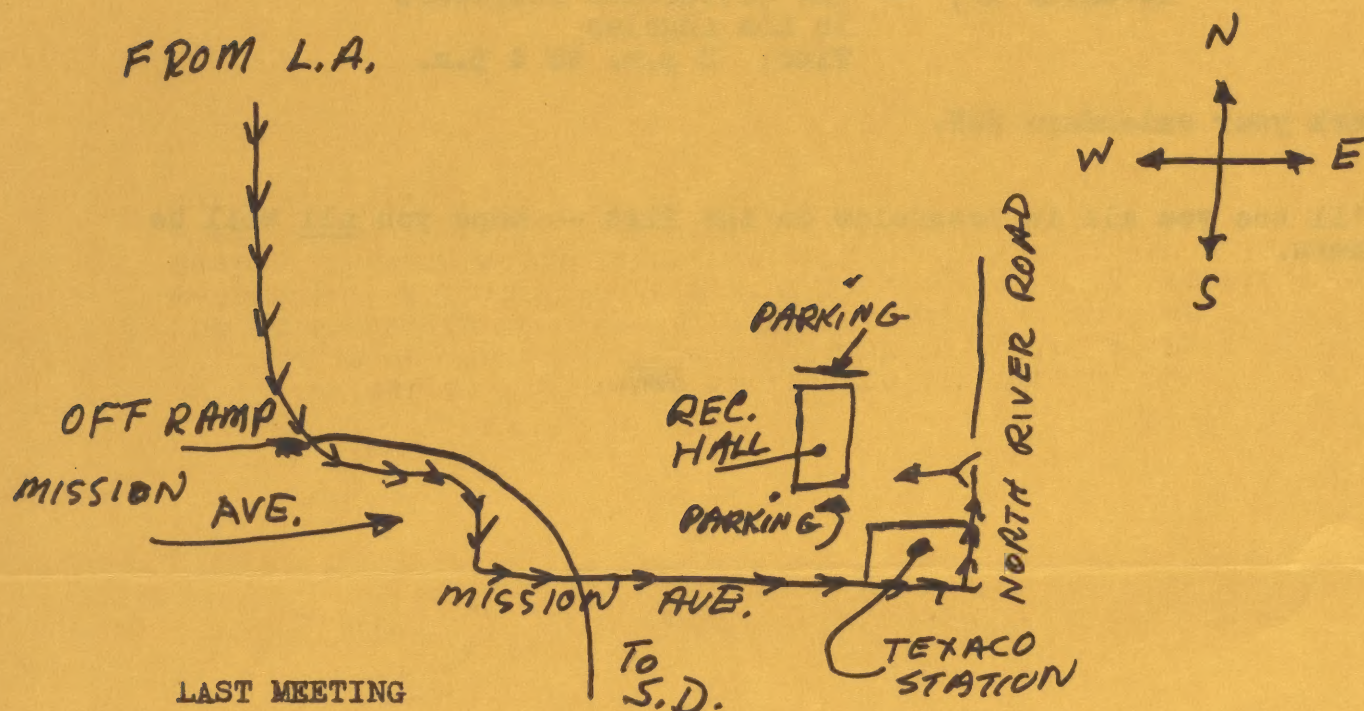
July 1974
Issue #51
R. B. Carter
Editor

JULY 21ST MEETING -- 3RD SUNDAY

Once again Mr. & Mrs. F. Gordon Smith have invited the CATC to meet in the Recreation Hall of Mission View West in Oceanside, California. The meeting is planned from 2 p.m. until 4:30 p.m. Directions from the Los Angeles area are as follows:

Take Interstate 5 (San Diego Freeway) to the Mission Ave. (Downtown Oceanside) off ramp, turn left on Mission to North River Road (about 4 miles,) turn left on North River Road; Mission View West is on the left.

SORRY - - NO ONE UNDER AGE 21 ALLOWED IN THE RECREATION HALL



LAST MEETING

In May we met at the Orange Empire Trolley Museum, Perris, Calif. Although those in attendance were slow in arriving (except the Ken Smith family who was there to welcome everyone) we had a nice gathering. Although there was no business meeting, we did a good deal of talking about tokens as well as things in general. Later everyone took in the Book Store, Museum, and rode the two street-cars in operation.

Those in attendance were the Ken Smith family, Jim Manning family, Ed Miller, Art Lee, John & Virginia Barnes, and the Carters.

LET'S NOT FORGET

The AVA Convention will be held in Minneapolis, Minn. August 9 - 11.
This will be at the Sheraton Ritz Hotel.

General Chairman is "Tex" Floyd Barnett. Registration at the door
will be \$12.50, however if you send your registration in early you
can save \$1.

Next year is our turn -- right here in Los Angeles.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The two remaining meetings of 1974 will be as follows:

September 15, -- Griffith Park
Our annual picnic next to
Travel Town
Time: 12 noon to 4 p.m.

November 17, -- The Ritterband residence
in Los Angeles
Time: 2 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Mark your calendars NOW.

I'll see you all in Oceanside on the 21st -- hope you all will be
there.

RBC

TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

September 1974
Issue #52
R. B. Carter
Editor

SEPTEMBER 15TH MEETING - - - 3RD SUNDAY

This will be our annual end-of-the-summer picnic and all around fun day for the whole family. We will meet in Griffith Park, Los Angeles, in the customary grassy area east of Travel Town. As usual we will endeavor to have the tables located in a place easily seen by everyone as they drive up to the area. This area in the park provides a good deal of interest to all age groups. Of course the displays in Travel Town are always interesting, also there is a miniature train ride, and not far away is the Los Angeles Zoo.

So, pack your picnic lunch and join the group. Also bring your extra tokens of all kinds. Everyone collects a little of this and a little of that, so there is always a ready market for trading as well as selling.

LAST MEETING

We wish to thank F. Gordon and Claire Smith for hosting our last meeting held in Oceanside, Ca. The weather was just delightful and so was the company.

Members in attendance were Kirk Smith, Ken Smith, Robert Ritterband, George Ticknor, Roland Atwood, John Barnes, Elaine Willahan, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Bob Carter, Claire Smith and F. Gordon Smith; guests were Eleanor Smith, Harriet Carter and Boyd Carter.

SPECIAL AWARD

Mr. Roland Atwood has been presented with a beautiful silver AVA 25th Anniversary Medal mounted in a blue plastic holder (with appropriate wording.) This medal was to have been presented to Roland at the Denver Convention in 1973, but since he was not able to attend, Robert Ritterband made the presentation at this time. The best part is with his usual humility, Roland was genuinely surprised.

SPECIAL THANKS

Once again I would like to thank the F. Gordon Smiths for their special donation to our club.

ELECTION TIME

Now is the time to start thinking about officers to guide the CATC in 1975-1976. I have asked around and have permission to mention a few persons who are willing to serve, but as usual we need more help.

President	Robert Ritterband
Vice President	??????
Secretary	Elaine Willahan
Treasurer	Andy Crusen
Past Pres.	R. B. Carter

The floor will be open for additional nominations for all offices at the November meeting, but as you can see we are desperately in need of a Vice President. (Does that sound familiar?)

TOKEN TOPICS

of the

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

November 1974

Issue #53

R. B. Carter

Editor

NOVEMBER MEETING - - - 3RD SUNDAY

The last meeting of 1974 will be held at the home of Mr. & Mrs. Ritterband, 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles. Time --- 2 P.M. to 4:30 P.M.

At this time we will be electing the officers to guide our organization in 1975 and 1976. 1975 will be a particularly challenging year since we will host the AVA Convention, here, in August.

The following persons have agreed to accept the nomination for the office of

President	-----	Robert Ritterband
Vice President	-	John Barnes
Secretary	-----	Elaine Willahan
Treasurer	-----	Andy Crusen

and as Past President, R. B. Carter.

Also, the floor will be open for further nominations for all four positions. Please come forward to help at this crucial time. I am sure we all plan to host a convention everyone is proud to have associated with the CATC.

R. Ritterband, Chairman of the AVA Convention, will give a progress report. He has been working with the present officers on the initial plans so that the various jobs can be defined.

LAST MEETING

Although our annual picnic at Griffith Park attracted a small attendance, we were rewarded with a beautiful day. Members present included, Kirk Smith, Ken Smith, Steve Lipshie, Elaine Willahan, Andy Crusen and Robert Carter. Guests were Eleanor Smith and Harriet Carter.

Ken Smith had a goody to show us in the Calif. 450 Airport Token. And as usual there was a lot of talking about things in general.

We were very close to the tracks used by the San Francisco Cable Car which was running. Everyone seemed to be enjoying their ride.

COIN SHOWS

There have been a number of coin shows in the Southern California area as of late, and apparently as a sign of the time the dealers are displaying more variety than in the past. Although TT's seem to be scarce, there are a few as well as many other collectibles. Perhaps a few goodies may surface yet.

A SPECIAL THANK YOU

In concluding this last newsletter to you members, I would like to thank you all for your help in keeping the CATC alive and running. And of course, a particular vote of thanks to my fellow officers who made it all possible.

TOKEN TOPICS

January 1975

Issue #53-A

of the

Robert Ritterband

Editor

CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

THIS MONTH: Our club begins a sparkling New Year with a gathering at the home of ever-popular hostess, Elaine Willahan, on Sunday afternoon, January 19th, from 2:00 to 5:00. Her address once again is 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles, very close to the Century Boulevard offramp of the Harbor Freeway, and her phone is (213) 755-2708. Believe it or not, this will be the 110th consecutive meeting of the very best Tokens group in the land, and we want YOU there to help celebrate.

As always, there will be loads of trading material for everyone... and in every category. Also this will be the kick-off to launch the promotion of next summer's 25th AVA convention, when our club will act as host for collectors from every part of the U.S.A. and Canada. We need plenty of help and advice, so do be with us!

August 15-17

LAST MEETING: The final session of '74 was held on Sunday, November 17th, at the Ritterband home in Los Angeles. A total of 18 members participated, including Jeff and Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John and Virginia Barnes, Robert Carter, Andrew Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, James Manning, Robert Ritterband, Claire and Gordon Smith, Ken and Kirk Smith, Paul Thompson, George Ticknor and Elaine Willahan. Guests were Ross Fry, Molly Ritterband and Eleanor Smith.

In the annual election of new officers, the following were chosen:

President	Robert Ritterband
Vice President	John Barnes
Secretary	Elaine Willahan
Treasurer	Andrew Crusen

Immediate past president Robert Carter completes the five-member Executive Board for the coming term. Happily, both our secretary and treasurer are good veterans on their jobs. As for Ritterband, this marks the seventh time in the past thirteen years that he has assumed the top role. (What a rut that man is in!)

TWO NEW MEMBERS: After about eight years of faithful attendance at our meetings, Virginia Barnes, wife of new v/p John, has now asked for a membership of her own. Of course it is a pleasure to welcome her, and we know she will be lots of help in our convention planning for next August.

Another new member is Gordon Fitzgerald, who joined the AVA about a year ago. He lives in the Valley, and though unable to attend a meeting so far, he promises to correct that serious error soon. By the way, Gordon has recently acquired his own Personal Tokens and is anxious to do some swapping in that field. The address is 15530 Le Marsh Street, Mission Hills, Calif. 91340.

ALSO A NEW MEMBERSHIP: Surely you know of the Numismatic Association of Southern California, sponsors of the gigantic collectors' convention every February at the Los Angeles Hilton. What you might not have known is that besides a large membership of individuals, NASC is also the spokesman organization for at least 75 affiliated hobby clubs throughout this area.

In October our club applied for such affiliation too, and the membership was granted to us on December 1st. This means that anything in numismatics or exonomia which goes on in Southern Calif. can have our voice heard too. Prez Ritterband has named Robert Carter as CATC's official representative to the NASC executive board. Carter is also an individual NASC member, and should do a fine job in presenting our views.

IN 1957: Try to name anything that costs the same these days as it did eighteen years ago. As simple an item as the nickel package of chewing gum has long since left the scene. When this club began back in '57, the vast majority of transportation tokens could be had for a dime each. For that same amount women also could buy a pound of sugar, instead of the current sixty cents or more.

The only thing that remained unchanged all these years is the annual \$1 dues of our club. Now even that cost must follow the unyielding pattern. The key word here is "must". The principal reason we ever collected dues is to handle the production and mailing of meeting notices. Our typewritten announcements on penny postcards (now 8c!) have given way to full-scale bulletins, which cost a dime just to mail, aside from the printing and envelopes. Of course we have other minor expenses too, leaving a net remainder of something less than zero.

Accordingly, the membership at our last meeting voted unanimously to authorize the future dues of \$2 annually. It's still the best bargain anywhere in our hobby, so please send your payment promptly now to Secretary Elaine.

THAT NUMBER: Our issue number on the front page will likely raise some questions, so we had better explain at once. Since the Gold Rush days, folks in California have often been referred to as "49-ers". But now we have found that the number isn't anything automatic.

To be specific, it has suddenly been discovered that Token Topics never did have a 49th issue. Somehow we jumped from #48 to #50, without anyone noticing same. Well, we can hardly go back now and use the missing number, can we? But if the current issue were to be called #54, what might future historians or archeologists think of this generation. So to get everything again into apple pie order, this time we have added a suffix to the last number used. Just let the "A" stand for "adjusted" and maybe you won't feel so bad about all of this. (Or maybe you don't anyway!)

SEEING DOUBLE: Shortly before the holidays your editor was on an errand to the Civic Center, and though he saw a ghost! Rolling right down the street was a double-deck bus, reminiscent of the ones that disappeared from Los Angeles (along with smogless skies) about the time of World War II. Of course this one was streamlined and speedy and far bigger than the old two-level chariots we used for so many years on Sunset and Wilshire Boulevards.

From a write-up in the L.A. Times we learned that this was the first of two from Stuttgart, West Germany, at \$134,000 apiece. They are being tried by the Rapid Transit District to determine present suitability. Whereas standard vehicles can accommodate 51 passengers, the new doubles (bus #2 is due here next month) have seating for 84. That's 27 on the lower level and 57 upstairs. It is a 70% increase for about the same operating cost, says RTD's president, Thomas Neusom.

Another very different aspect is that the new equipment has broad, tinted windows on the bottom and top, while the ancient ones were entirely open above. It was said to have been a concession to local fresh air fiends, but we have a hunch that a cheaper construction cost carried plenty of weight. Wonder if the newcomers will be any reason for a new issue of transportation tokens?

COLLECTION
TURNOVER-- Former CATC member W. Von Boltenstern recently got in touch with this writer. He was heading for a year's journey to Europe and wanted to first dispose of his long-neglected collection of some 350 tokens.

A suitable price was agreed upon, after which Ritterband devoted much time to sorting and catalogueing the pieces. About 25% of the batch went into the latter's collection, including the famed quartet from Mount Lowe, Calif. Another 25% or so were traded off during our November meeting, and the final 50% were passed along to Gordon Fitzgerald, still a beginner. And in that fashion, Bolty's efforts of the earlier years brought present day pleasure to folks still in this favorite hobby.

TOKEN TOPICS

of the
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION of TOKEN COLLECTORS

March 1975
Issue #54

Robert Ritterband
Editor

NEXT MEETING: This month, on Sunday afternoon the 16th, our members will gather once again at the most popular meeting place of all, the home of Elaine Willahan, 516 W. 99th Street, Los Angeles. By now everyone knows that the turnout will be 20 or more, giving every collector a wonderful chance to increase his token holdings. Only by actually attending one of these sessions can a person appreciate the number of duplicate tokens on hand for swapping.

Remember that Ken and Kirk Smith would like you to bring along any pieces that you wish to wish to have auctioned during the A.V.A. convention this summer. As usual, our session will run from 1:30 to 4:30, and we do hope to see you there.

LAST TIME: The January gathering drew 22 members and three family guests. On hand were: John Allred, Steve Alpert, Roland Atwood, John and Virginia Barnes, Robert Carter, Andy Crusen, Les Hawthorne, Robert Kubach, Steve Lipshie, James Manning, Edrick Miller, Phillip Pearson, Robert Ritterband, Claire and Gordon Smith, Ken and Kirk Smith, Paul Thompson, George Ticknor, Duffy Waldorf, and Elaine Willahan. The guests were Pat Miller, Eleanor Smith and James Waldorf, who is president of the Numismatic Association of Southern California.

In addition to plenty of token dealing, much time was devoted to talk about our coming sponsorship of the A.V.A. 25th annual convention in August. This will be at the Ramada Inn/Airport, Friday thru Sunday, August 15-17. Afterwards there will be a final session on Friday, August 22, during the American Numismatic convention, at which time a speaker will be presented for the enjoyment of all hobbyists. Read more about this great celebration on the following page.

NEW MEMBERS: Three of the names listed above are new to our club. If you were not present at our last meeting to greet them in person, at least meet via this bulletin: John Allred from Montebello, Phillip Pearson of the West L.A. area, and Duffy Waldorf, teen-age son of NASC president James Waldorf. And another, who joined by mail, is C. T. Rogers, collector and dealer in Westwood Village. Of course it's a real pleasure to welcome them all as fellow collectors.

THOSE DUES: The fact that you are now reading this bulletin shows some enjoyment on your part in receiving it. Still, Secretary Elaine reports that quite a few members haven't paid their current dues yet. The money is used only to issue these news letters every other month. Regretfully we must say that the future issues will only be sent to the folks who have contributed their annual \$2. If you are one who has forgotten to take care of this little matter, please send your payment now to Elaine. We think you need us, and we know that we need you! With the convention coming, our need for one another is greater now than ever.

ANOTHER ROSTER: It has been a mighty long time since our club issued a roster of its membership. Because of frequent requests, and as an aid to better convention planning, a new roster will be made a part of the next issue of "Token Topics". Look for it in May... and now will you pay those dues?

AUGUST On the other side we began to give information on the pending A.V.A.
DETAILS: conclave, but realized that there wouldn't be enough space. Let's start again now with as many details as possible.

The dates you already know about, and everyone in the club should be "saving" them. The exact location is the Ramada Inn, 9620 Airport Blvd., Los Angeles 90045, and their phone is (213) 670-1600. This spot is less than a mile from L.A. International, with free limosine service at all hours. Also it is only a short block from the Marriott Hotel, where the American Numismatic will open their huge gathering two days after our main events are finished. Room rates at the Ramada will be \$17 for singles and \$22 for doubles, with plenty of free parking adjoining the buildings. Of course there is also a good swim pool for everyone's pleasure.

Our session will start officially on Friday afternoon at 1:00, with the greatest swap meet on earth for transportation tokens. From experience we can safely predict that the hustle and bustle on this will not let up until very late that evening. A limited number of bourse tables will be available at a modest cost for any of our member-dealers who wish to be guaranteed a reserved place for the two days of sales activity. (Please be in touch with Ritterband promptly if this appeals to you.) Also in operation will be a small bookstore, offering a wide selection of titles in many transportation subjects.

Saturday morning the token activity will start again by 9:00, and at 10:00 the Association's first business session will begin. Following a non-host lunch break, the second session takes place. By mid-afternoon all will be ready for another big floor-and-mail auction. Ken and Kirk Smith are handling the mechanics of this, with John Coffee being the head man in a capable bunch of callers. The swap room and bourse will remain open during all of these activities, so you just take your choice of which ever appeals most. By the way, your token exhibits will be most welcome, with suitable mementos for each exhibitor. Robert Carter is the chairman to call upon for more info in this matter.

In the early evening on Saturday we switch from business and collecting to the more festive aspects of our meeting. First comes a social hour (non-host) to be followed by an excellent buffet dinner, as arranged by John and Virginia Barnes. When everyone has eaten his fill, a pleasant program on a certain token related subject will be presented. (Too soon yet to release the secret details on this!)

The grand annual tour will happen on Sunday morning. Charter buses will take all conventioners on a thirty-minute trip to Long Beach, for a thorough inspection of the world's greatest example of floating transportation, the famed "Queen Mary". About three hours will be spent on board, for a complete tour of all facilities, before our bus returns us to the hotel. Naturally a new souvenir token is being struck for this bus ride, and the committee believes it will be another winner.

Though some of the convention registrants may have to head homeward after the Sunday events, an unusual "encore" session has been set for Friday morning, August 22, during the actual run of the Numismatic meet. On that morning an illustrated talk will be given us by Ralph "Curly" Mitchell of the Franklin Mint, telling about the "Nine Lives of Citizen Train". Mr. Train, an American, built the first passenger carrying tramways in England in 1860. Both Curly and Ken Smith have relics of that event, and should give us a most interesting session.

Everything mentioned here can be yours for a registration of only \$15.50, or if you will be an "Early Bird" and have your payment in by July 15, the price will be only \$14. (That extra 10% savings might buy you a real nice token, you know!) In a month or so, some remittance envelopes will be mailed to every member. You don't have to wait, though, and the convention committee will certainly appreciate your help on the advance funding. Your letter soon to Robert Ritterband, 6576 Colgate Avenue, Los Angeles 90048, will do the trick. For any needed information by phone, call him at (213) 870-7305 daytimes, or 938-4504 evenings.